New Haven Nov. 28. 1838

My very dear Brother

My last letter to you was written at Utica on the 5th instant — My visit at that place was as pleasant as my friends could make it — but somehow it failed to satisfy — & in the retrospect there is nothing to dwell upon — The weather was exceedingly unpleasant wet & scarce a day without snow or rain — You know from experience what the effect of such a state of the atmosphere upon the roads in that region would be — & you will therefore hardly be surprised that I did not visit Clinton — It was my wish, & intention to do so, & I was only deterred from it, by the extreme difficulty of getting there — I saw for a few moments, Prof. Lathrop, & learned that our friends remained much as usual — except that Aunt Norton was gradually declining — & it was sometimes feared she would not survive a week — I wrote to her by way of apology lamenting my own disappointment &c, &c. — At Utica I saw several of the Kirkland family — & was very cordially greeted by them — saw also M. A. Whitmore & took tea with her — Mrs Lothrop is to spend the winter in Boston — she has been this fall to South Carolina with Samuel, to visit Sarah — The latter is there, with the same lady with whom she was placed at Bethlehem — Many enquiries were made after you — & I was happy to be able to say that I had received frequent & long letters from you — The all interesting & absorbing topic there, at that time, was the Election — Judge Dean is quite a politician, so that we heard much of it at home — In Oneida county the Whigs were defeated in consequence of the measures of the Abolitionists — of course C. P. Kirkland lost his election. but the minority there had this consolation that their friends in the State, were *in* the majority — Seward & Bradish had 10.000 votes over Marcy & Tracy — Perhaps you will think that politics are out of place in a lady's letter — but having been on the spot I felt of course more interested in it than otherwise would have been the case — Besides as it is now your *state*, you may probably feel, also interested, to have, what we consider the *right* side triumph — The Whigs were not at all confident, but, rather surprised at their own success —

I left U— on the 15th under the protection of a gentleman of that city — I hoped to have reached New Haven on the following day. The weather was however very stormy — & at night a dense fog came on & obliged us to lye by seven hours — We did not reach New York until 2 o'clock P. M of the 16th, a passage of twenty two hours from Albany — The next day was fine & I had a comfortable time up the Sound —

I found on my arrival here our friends all in good health — a fact so unusual, as to be unexpected — but yet so much the more agreeable. Sister Nancy seems better than I have seen her for two years — & Cornelia is perfectly well — She goes to school regularly, & is very much devoted to her studies — Her severe sickness last Spring, appears to have produced some change in her constitution, for she has not since, been subject to those frequent ill turns, which were a constant source of anxiety to her friends — — — Sister Harriet too is tolerably well, & brighter & more animated than usual — The elder children are growing very fast & improving — Little John is a fine interesting boy — walks & talks a little — though in the latter, is not remarkably forward. I have not seen him enough yet, to get very well acquainted, but he looks pleased & happy when he sees me — & I think he will be quite a pet — as he is our only one — — Brother George is at present occupied in Smith & Sherman's hardware store — & I believe is engaged for the winter — He is a writing clerk — When he had nothing to do — he spent a great deal of time in brother C—s office — very much to the annoyance of C—, but now he is seldom there — not more than four times since his return from Detroit — I am rejoiced that he is thus employed —

C— as usual is full of business — & in addition to Law & Insurance — is one of a Committee for making arrangements &c, for building a new County Jail — He has recently been to Hartford on that business with others — & it fell to him to write a report — He has accordingly written one of twelve pages — which he has submitted to Mr Bacon — & Mr B— approves of it — The object seems to be one of great interest here — — C— has also been lately occupied in the subject of 'Common Schools' — a convention was held here a short time since — at which his friend Barnard delivered an Address — — C— seems to have much influence here, & to be very highly esteemed — all thought him very foolish to think of going to Michigan, when he was doing so well here — There is no doubt but that he would have influence wherever he might go — but

I think he may be much happier here than at Detroit – owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country – the state of society has deteriorated very much during the last two years – I am sure that all our friends there – will return to the *east* as soon as practicable – – for none of them are satisfied –

I have a letter from Anna since her arrival at home – They encountered a tremendous storm on the Lake, but were able to make a harbour – a steamer, two schooners & a brig, were wrecked in sight of them – They found all well ~~&~~ the children greatly improved – Anna thinks she shall never leave home again – for all the pleasure of her journey was destroyed by anxiety for them – Helen is still at D – & will probably remain during winter

As for myself. I am most comfortably located at brother Charles – I have the back chamber – the one you occupied two years ago – It is now however in a much better condition – & instead of a *wood fire* – he has provided me with an Olmstead stove – in which I keep a good fire of Anthracite, both night & day – It is a real luxury to have a warm bedroom & I mean to enjoy it – I am scarcely settled down yet for the winter that is, I have no definite plan for the employment of my time – I hope however to *improve* it – not *waste* it – – – – – Last Sabbath was intensely cold – the Thermometer was down to 13 degrees – & the Albany boats had to plough their way through ice as far as Hudson – It has moderated however since – but from all appearances I fear we shall have a severe winter

I found here your two letters, one from Constantinople of Aug 2nd & the other from the Danube, last date Aug 25th – in both of which I was much interested – I was also amused by your account of the Servian maidens, & think you must have become quite romantic in the East – –

Before this I suppose you are located at Berlin with your family – how happy you must also be after so long a separation, to be again united! & sister Therese – from what a burden of anxiety is she relieved! –

I am hoping for another letter from you soon, & am watching the arrival of the Packet of Oct 16th, thinking it will bring one – – – The non arrival of the steam packet Liverpool for a long time after she was expected, created great excitement in New York – & a revenue cutter was despatched in pursuit – She came in however on Friday – having made a passage from Cork in 16 days – she sailed from Liverpool on the 20th Oct – but after proceeding 1000 miles, it was discovered that they were using fuel so fast, that they would not have enough – so they returned to Cork – – John Van Buren son of the Pres – was one of the passengers – & perhaps it was for his sake that the *cutter* was ordered out – He has not arrived, having left with some others at C. –

Nov 29. Thanksgiving. — I delayed finishing my letter yesterday, that I might tell you at its close how we had spent this our annual festival — Brother C— & myself have heard a very excellent sermon from Mr Bacon, on the subject of "Common School education" a subject in which he is much interested — Brother G— sister H— & Louisa have dined with us — & in our remembrance of absent friends you dear brother & yours, had a prominent place — We thought you would have liked to have been with us — were we mistaken? All the N.E. states except Vermont, & also, New Jersey, Illinois & Michigan have today celebrated this anniversary. — Our friends therefore in the latter state have remembered us — as well as we them —

Rev Edward Robinson D.D.
~~Poste Restante~~
Berlin
Prusse

El. R. Nov. 29. 1838
Rec'd Dec. 30.

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I wrote you a year ago today — then the day preceding Thanksgiving — I was then preparing for my departure for Albany — now I am in my quiet winter quarters — There has been little change among us here — so far as we know — no deaths in the family circle — may another year find us numbering at least the same! — My love to sister Theresa to Mimi & Eddy —.

With devoted affection your sister
Elisabeth

All assembled here today send their love & good wishes to all —